

# **Graduation Requirements for Students in Missouri Public Schools**

*Effective for Graduates of the Class of 2010*

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**Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education**

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## INTRODUCTION

Young people and their families make few decisions that affect their lives as profoundly as developing a personal plan of study around their high school experience. Developing an inadequate or inappropriate plan can severely restrict a student's educational and career options. Developing a rigorous and relevant plan of study, however, can open doors of opportunity that can lead to a lifetime of economic and social productivity. This important decision cannot be left to chance. Local boards of education must develop policies related to graduation that will ensure that every graduate can become a productive citizen.

A fully implemented guidance program must be available to all students and their parents to provide assistance and support in this important activity, and timely access to the full range of information necessary to make effective decisions about the student's personal plan of study, including:

- the Show-Me Standards,
- the state and local graduation requirements,
- the full program of studies available in the high school, including course descriptions and objectives,
- information about individual academic strengths and weaknesses,
- broad information about careers, career paths, and career clusters,
- entrance requirements for colleges, universities, technical schools, and other postsecondary training programs.

A Comprehensive Guidance Program that features these elements will enable students to pursue rigorous high school programs of study that expand their opportunities and ensure that they can be productive members of an ever-changing global society.

## **BACKGROUND**

In 2004, Commissioner of Education D. Kent King appointed a statewide task force to study Missouri high schools and make recommendations on strengthening the ways they help students prepare for life after high school. The task force studied the issue for a year and made three recommendations for improving Missouri high schools. The State Board of Education adopted the following recommendations in 2005 and 2006.

The State Board of Education increased minimum graduation requirements to 24 units of credit for the graduating class of 2010. This includes 4 units of communication arts and 3 units each of math, science and social studies. A half-unit requirement in health education and a half unit in personal finance were also added. Although specific course sequences were not included in these requirements, it was required that the core classes be closely aligned with the Missouri Show-Me Standards and Grade Level Expectations (GLEs). These new graduation requirements represent minimum requirements. School districts have the flexibility to exceed these requirements as they have in the past.

These changes to Missouri high school graduation requirements were the first major changes since 1984. The changes were a response to concerns expressed by both the business community and higher education about the lack of adequate preparation of Missouri's high school graduates for either the work place or postsecondary education

In 1993, the Missouri legislature passed the Outstanding Schools Act, calling for adoption of academic standards to clearly define what Missouri students should know and be able to do by the time they graduate from high school. In response, the State Board of Education adopted 73 academic standards, known as the Show-Me Standards, in January 1996. Developed by some of Missouri's best teachers and administrators with input from citizens throughout the state, the Show-Me Standards added a new dimension to the state's traditional graduation requirements. Where current graduation requirements state expectations in terms of passing grades and units of credit (a measure of time spent in class), the Show-Me Standards describe the knowledge and skills students will need to be successful after high school. The Show-Me Standards have been further refined into the Grade Level Expectations (GLEs). The GLEs define particular grade level or in each content area in a more detailed manner, the knowledge and skills students should acquire at each.

In 1994, the Coordinating Board for Higher Education adopted new “core curriculum” standards for admission to Missouri’s public colleges and universities. The same year, the State Board of Education revised its requirements for the College Preparatory Studies Certificate to match the Coordinating Board’s requirements. Because of the increase in graduation requirements and the desire to make sure all Missouri students are “college ready,” the College Preparatory Studies Certificate has been revised (see Appendix B).

## **PURPOSE**

This publication is designed to help answer questions for principals, counselors, teachers, students and parents about high school graduation requirements and the options that individual students may have for meeting the requirements. (All major documents related to graduation requirements and standards appear as appendices.) School districts should review this handbook and make sure all staff members are aware of current state requirements and policies. Students should be informed about all requirements in time to properly develop their high school personal plan of study.

The handbook should also serve as a resource for educators as they blend the traditional graduation requirements with the performance-based expectations contained in the Show-Me Standards and Grade Level Expectations. The handbook will be a truly valuable tool if it helps Missouri educators make the graduation requirements and learning expectations clear to their students, parents, and others in their communities.

## **DEVELOPING A PERSONAL PLAN OF STUDY**

Students and their families should have access to a well planned and fully implemented comprehensive guidance program that will enable them to make informed choices in developing a high school personal plan of study. Through the guidance program, students receive extensive academic and career awareness and exploration and planning starting as early as elementary school, with an emphasis at the middle-school, junior high school, and high school levels. These activities assist students in making choices that will enhance their post-high school opportunities. Career-awareness and exploration activities beginning in the early grades provide a foundation for these decisions.

During the middle or junior-high school years, students explore various career paths through coursework and participation in career-related activities, such as job shadowing, clubs and organizations, volunteer work, etc., that help them identify personal interests and skills relevant to their career aspirations.

By the end of the eighth grade, all students should have:

- sufficient information to have selected a tentative career path,
- sufficient knowledge of their academic strengths and weaknesses to guide planning for high school,
- a thorough knowledge of state and local graduation requirements and
- information about the courses and programs available in the high school the students will attend.

In order to ensure that students will make a successful transition to high school and a positive postsecondary experience, it is important for them to develop a rigorous and relevant personal plan of study based on their interests and abilities. The plans of study should reflect not only graduation requirements, but also movement toward a career focus revolving around career paths and/or clusters. It is imperative that school personnel, students and their parents continuously review these plans and modify them when all agree that changes are desirable. This planning and monitoring process should result in all students completing high school well prepared for their chosen postsecondary experience or entry into the workplace.

Federal and state regulations pertaining to the implementation of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) require that transition be addressed for all students with an Individualized Education Program (IEP) beginning at age sixteen, or younger if appropriate. Requirements for these transition services are located in the Special Education State Plan, which can be accessed through the Division of Special Education website ([www.dese.mo.gov/divspeced](http://www.dese.mo.gov/divspeced)).

All students who plan to attend postsecondary education (community colleges, technical schools, or four-year colleges and universities) should become familiar with the academic requirements for acceptance in those institutions of interest. In addition, students who expect to attend four-year colleges or universities should consider following the course of studies necessary to earn the College Preparatory Studies Certificate (see Appendix B) and also meet the Department of Higher Education (DHE) High School Core Curriculum Requirement for college admission (see Appendix C). The DHE core-curriculum requirements are applicable for admission to all Missouri public four-year colleges and universities for all first-time, degree-seeking college students who graduate from high school.

Students who are interested in career and technical education or in combining the last two years of high school with two years of community college through Tech Prep education or 2+2 offerings should examine those programs of studies that will allow for the smooth transition to postsecondary education, the workplace, or both.

Students attending high schools that are designated as “A+” (see Appendix G) should become familiar with the requirements for certain tuition waivers to community colleges or other postsecondary institutions. Following a rigorous and relevant personal plan of study based on these requirements and focused around a career path or cluster will enhance the chances for

success of students entering postsecondary training or the workplace immediately after graduation.

## HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS SET BY STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

The State Board of Education establishes **minimum** graduation requirements that are designed to ensure that graduates have taken courses in several different subject areas and that should result in students having mastered essential knowledge, skills, and competencies.

Local boards of education must adopt and disseminate written policies concerning graduation. The policies must clearly set forth all requirements and all allowable variations. Local graduation policies must include at least the state minimum requirements and may exceed the state minimums by requiring more total units of credit, requiring more units within a particular subject, or establishing additional requirements.

**The state minimum high school graduation requirements comprise 24 units of credit that must be earned prior to graduation. The requirements are stated in terms of the number of units of credit that must be earned in each of several subject areas. To earn one unit of credit, a student must meet all the course requirements and earn a passing grade in a course that meets for at least 7,830 minutes a year. Half- and quarter-units of credit may be earned for courses meeting proportionately fewer minutes.**

Following are the requirements by subject area and, in some cases, specific courses. Interpretative notations for each content area may be found in Appendix A.

### Graduation Requirements

Personal Finance/ Elective		Personal Finance/ Social Studies		Personal Finance/ Practical Arts	
Subject Area	Units of Credit	Subject Area	Units of Credit	Subject Area	Units of Credit
Communication Arts	4.0	Communication Arts	4.0	Communication Arts	4.0
Social Studies	3.0	<b>Social Studies*</b> <b>(Personal Finance .5)</b>	<b>3.0</b>	Social Studies	3.0
Mathematics	3.0	Mathematics	3.0	Mathematics	3.0
Science	3.0	Science	3.0	Science	3.0
Fine Arts	1.0	Fine Arts	1.0	Fine Arts	1.0
Practical Arts	1.0	Practical Arts	1.0	<b>Practical Arts*</b> <b>(Personal Finance .5)</b>	<b>1.0</b>
Physical Education	1.0	Physical Education	1.0	Physical Education	1.0
Health Education	.5	Health Education	.5	Health Education	.5
<b>Personal Finance</b>	<b>.5</b>	<b>Electives</b>	<b>7.5</b>	<b>Electives</b>	<b>7.5</b>
<b>Electives</b>	<b>7.0</b>				
<b>Total Credits</b>	<b>24.0</b>	<b>Total Credits</b>	<b>24.0</b>	<b>Total Credits</b>	<b>24.0</b>

\* Indicates that the personal finance course may count one half unit of credit towards meeting this requirement.

## VARIANCES TO THE STATE MINIMUM GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

The state minimum graduation requirements cannot be applied with absolute uniformity in every case. Students' individual situations sometimes require consideration of variances and alternatives. Following are descriptions of areas in which local boards of education may adopt policies that vary from the state standard minimum graduation requirements. If a local board chooses to allow these variances and alternatives, it must do so through officially adopted policies and through procedures that will ensure fair and consistent application of its policies.

### Placement, Credit, and Variances for Students Who Transfer into a District

Local boards of education have authority to establish reasonable, nondiscriminatory policies for determining grade placement of transfer students and recognizing credit from their prior schools. The Department recommends the following:

Transferring From	Board Policy
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Another public high school in a school district accredited by the Missouri State Board of Education</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Accept credit, pursuant to 171.171, RSMo, and grade placement as stated on transcript.</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• A nonpublic high school or charter school in Missouri accredited by the North Central Association (NCA), Independent Schools Association of Central States (ISACS), or the University of Missouri Committee on Accredited Schools</li><li>• Private agency placement by public school district for students with disabilities</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Accept grade placement and credit as stated on transcript and equated to the Carnegie unit as defined in Missouri.</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• A public or nonpublic high school in another state accredited by that state's department of education, NCA or its equivalent, or ISACS or its equivalent agency.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Accept grade placement and credit as stated on transcript and equated to the Carnegie Unit as defined in Missouri.</li></ul>



Transferring From	Board Policy
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An unaccredited public or nonpublic high school in Missouri or another state.</li> <li>• A charter public high school that is not accredited by the NCA or its equivalent</li> <li>• Home school</li> <li>• Private agency placement by parents/guardians of students with disabilities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review reported courses and any available achievement test or other performance data.</li> <li>• Interview student and parents.</li> <li>• Administer formal and informal assessments if records are inadequate.</li> <li>• Make a tentative placement decision based on available information.</li> <li>• If placement is ninth grade, students should be required to meet all state and local graduation requirements.</li> <li>• Parents/guardians of home-schooled children must provide documentation as required in 167.031, RSMo.</li> </ul>

Sometimes transfer students cannot reasonably meet all state and local graduation requirements within the usual four years of attendance. If a transfer student from a Missouri high school is placed tenth grade or above, local policy may permit the student to graduate upon satisfactory completion of a program of studies that would have met the graduation requirements at the school formerly attended. Such students would have to meet the requirements in Section 170.011, RSMo (See Appendix D for a complete discussion of the requirements of Section 170.011).

Transfer students from another state or country or a home school may be graduated upon successful completion of an individualized program of studies which school officials, parents and students agree will prepare the students for post-high school goals, even though the program of studies may not include 24 units of credit as defined in Missouri. Seniors transferring from other states or countries may be graduated without meeting the requirements of Section 170.011, RSMo.

### **Students Transferring Between Districts with Significantly Different Schedules and Graduation Requirements**

To meet the minimum graduation requirements set by the State Board of Education, a student must earn 24 units of credit. To earn one unit of credit, a student must satisfy all course requirements and earn a passing grade in a course that meets for at least 7,830 minutes a year (or proportionately fewer minutes for half- and quarter-units of credit).

Some school districts offer schedules and graduation requirements that differ significantly from more traditional programs. In these cases, students may spend considerably less time in a given class than the generally required 7,830 minutes, but they are also required to attend more classes in a day. In such programs, students may be issued one unit of credit per course, but they are also usually required to earn 40 or so units in order to graduate.

When students transfer between school districts with significantly different schedule programs and graduation requirements, questions arise about how many units of credits should be issued to students by the receiving school districts (in order to be equitable to students as well as to maintain district graduation requirements). To recognize and accommodate these differences, school districts are encouraged to establish a clearly written policy detailing how to manage such transfers when they occur. Such policies should be fair and equitable to students, take into consideration the schedule and graduation requirements of the sending district, and ensure that students will meet the graduation standards of the receiving district.

### **Credit by Correspondence**

Local policy may recognize units of credit from correspondence schools toward meeting the state and local graduation requirements. To be eligible for recognition, correspondence credit must be from an accredited institution.

### **Virtual Education--Courses Delivered Through Electronic Media**

State law enacted in 2006 (Section 161.670, RSMo) required the State Board of Education to establish a virtual public school. This legislation resulted in development of Missouri's K-12 Virtual Instructional Program (MoVIP).

Courses offered by MoVIP use the same course codes and names provided through the state Core Data system. Local school districts are required to accept courses offered through MoVIP as units of credit toward meeting state and local graduation requirements.

Upon successful MoVIP course completion, the Department will report to the Missouri district of residence a percentage reflecting the quality of work/content satisfactorily completed. Courses successfully completed through MoVIP qualify as a unit offered by the school district. Local districts may not limit the number of credits earned through MoVIP.

Section 161.670, RSMo also provides for students enrolling in additional courses under a separate agreement that includes terms for paying tuition and course fees. Successful completion of these courses results in MoVIP credit which also is recognized as meeting state and local requirements.

Local policy may also recognize units of credit from other sources delivered primarily through electronic media such as satellite video courses, cable video courses, interactive education television consortium, and computer-driven or on-line courses.

## **Credit for Off-Campus Instruction**

Under some circumstances, students may earn high school credit for off-campus learning experiences. (See Appendix E for a description of the conditions and limitations.)

## **Dual Credit for High School and College Courses**

Students may earn both high school and college credit for some coursework under some circumstances. Generally, such arrangements fall into two types: (1) arrangements in which advanced high school courses are taught on the high school campus by teachers designated as adjunct instructors by a college or university; and (2) arrangements in which high school students leave the high school campus and attend regular college classes for part of the school day. (See Appendix E for a description of the conditions and limitations.)

## **Embedded Credit**

School districts may choose to embed competencies from one subject into another class and award credit to students for both the embedded content and the other subject. School districts need to approach the issue of embedded credit with caution. The embedded subject and the other subject should be closely linked. For example, embedding mathematics credit in a building trades class seems a natural fit. Embedding personal finance content into a family and consumer science class is an appropriate link.

Because this involves an alternative method for granting credit, school districts choosing to offer embedded credit must notify DESE. The notification must include assurances that the embedded content is closely aligned to the subject in which that content will be taught. The embedded content must also align closely to the Missouri Show-Me Standards and Grade Level Expectations, and be rigorous in expectations. The district assurances must also include a plan for determining student competency in the embedded credit as well the acceptable level of student mastery for the awarding of credit.

Area Career Centers should collaborate with their sending school districts as core curriculum is embedded into career education classes. That collaboration must involve administrators and classroom teachers of the affected content areas. The collaboration must also include the development of the plan to determine student competency. Districts may wish to consult the Embedded Credit Toolkit developed by the Missouri Career Education Center at University of Central Missouri for detailed processes for embedding credit in career education classes. (<http://missouricareereducation.org/>)

## **Competency-Based Credit**

School districts may award high school credit to students upon demonstration of mastery of the competencies for a particular course. School districts wishing to award credit based on

demonstration of a mastery of the course competencies must notify DESE. School districts must assure that the expected level of performance would demonstrate that a student has mastered the course competencies and may receive credit for the class.

### **Waiver of Required Academic Credit for Students Completing a Career and Technical Program of Studies**

Local board of education policy may permit a waiver of one unit of academic credit (communication arts, mathematics, science, or social studies) for students who complete a three-unit career and technical education program of studies. The three-unit career and technical program must constitute a planned program leading to specific career-related competencies, not simply any three units of credit. The academic subject in which the waiver is granted must be one in which the student has received substantial instruction in the career and technical education program. For example, students completing a three-unit agricultural-education program or a health-sciences program might be permitted to waive one unit of science; students completing a three-unit electricity/electronics program might be permitted to waive one unit of mathematics.

### **Alternative, Performance-Based Graduation**

Educators and others have recognized that completing a specified number of units of credit may not ensure that students will obtain the knowledge, competencies and skills that are considered essential to success in postsecondary studies or on the job. The State Board of Education has authorized the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education to waive the standard graduation requirements for school districts that wish to develop and implement performance-based graduation standards as an alternative to the credit-based requirements. Any school district interested in this alternative should contact the School Improvement and Accreditation Section for information and guidance in developing such a system.

### **Credit Recovery**

Credit recovery provides an opportunity for high school students (grades 9-12) who would otherwise fail a course to complete the requirements of the class. The content teacher must outline the deficiencies the student must correct in order to receive credit for the class. The credit recovery teacher acts as a monitor (resource teacher) to students as they work to complete the required coursework. Since students in the class may be working in a variety of subject areas, the supervising teacher may hold any valid Missouri teacher certificate except a substitute certificate, early childhood certificate, or non-degree vocational certificate.

## **Credit for Alternative Arrangements**

Some students cannot schedule within the regular school day all the courses they wish to take and, therefore, take some courses under special arrangements such as “Zero Hour,” evening community education programs, centers for at-risk youth, or summer-school programs. Other students are unable to succeed in conventional high school instruction and pursue secondary programs in alternative settings. Local boards of education may, by policy, recognize high school credit for such classes if: 1) the instructors hold valid teaching certificates; 2) the course content and performance standards have been reviewed and determined by the staff of the local high school to be equivalent to corresponding high school courses; and 3) the instructional time is reasonably equated to the state standard for the Carnegie Unit for purposes of granting units of credit.

## **POLICY CONSIDERATIONS FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES UNDER IDEA**

Each school district must provide a free, appropriate public education for students with disabilities until they are graduated with a regular diploma or attain the age of 21 years. According to the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), local school boards must establish policies and guidelines that ensure that students with disabilities have the opportunity to earn credits toward graduation in a nondiscriminatory manner within the spirit and intent of that requirement. Provisions include:

1. Any specific graduation requirement may be waived for a disabled student if recommended by the student’s IEP Committee.
2. Students with disabilities will receive grades and have credit transcribed in the same manner as all other students when they complete the same courses as other students.
3. Students with disabilities who complete regular courses modified as indicated in their IEPs will receive grades and have credit transcribed in the same manner as students who complete the courses without modification. The fact that the courses were modified may be noted on the transcript.
4. Students with disabilities who meet the goals and objectives of their IEPs, as measured by the evaluation procedures and criteria specified in the IEPs, will have credit transcribed in accordance with the state definition of units of credit.
5. Students with disabilities who meet state and local graduation credit requirements by taking and passing regular courses, taking and passing regular courses with modification, taking and passing modified classes, or successfully achieving IEP goals and objectives shall be graduated and receive regular high school diplomas.

6. Students with disabilities who reach age 21, or otherwise terminate their education, and who have met the district's attendance requirements but who have not completed the requirements for graduation, receive a certificate of attendance.

## **POLICY CONSIDERATIONS FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES UNDER SECTION 504 OF THE REHABILITATION ACT OF 1973**

School districts must comply with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and ensure that graduation policies do not discriminate against students with disabilities protected under that act. Technical assistance may be obtained from the Regional Office of the U.S. Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights (OCR), which is located in Kansas City (816-268-0550).

## **SEVENTH- AND EIGHTH-GRADE STUDENTS WHO COMPLETE HIGH SCHOOL-LEVEL COURSES**

Increasingly, academically advanced students in elementary and middle-school/junior high school grades are completing coursework, such as Algebra I or the first level of a foreign language. Districts are encouraged to provide such opportunities for students. The appropriate units of credit should be recorded on students' transcripts with the notation that those courses have been successfully completed prior to ninth grade and that the students began ninth grade with advanced standing. The advanced standing credit may be counted toward meeting the subject-area requirements for graduation.

## **RESTRICTIONS ON USE OF GED**

School districts may not adopt policies or practices under which students who do not meet the state or local minimum graduation requirements are granted a high school diploma by taking the Tests of General Educational Development (GED), except through the Missouri Option Program.

## **NUMBER OF SEMESTERS OF ATTENDANCE REQUIRED**

Traditionally, a high school education has consisted of four years (eight semesters) of attendance. Some students, however, may complete graduation requirements early, and they may need the challenge of pursuing postsecondary studies. Other students may need more time than the usual four years to complete requirements. Those students need the support of the

school and community, as well as their parents, to complete high school, even if it requires five or more years. The important goal is finishing high school with a quality education — not graduating within a specific number of years.

Local boards of education may, by policy, permit students who have met all state and local graduation requirements to exit high school earlier than the usual eight semesters. The conditions for early exit should be communicated unambiguously to all students and their parents, and the policy should be followed in the most consistent manner possible. Policies should be flexible enough to permit and encourage part-time attendance and other arrangements for students who may need more than four years to complete a sound high school education.

## **GRADUATION BY ADULTS WHO DID NOT COMPLETE HIGH SCHOOL**

Although adults who did not complete high school may earn a Certificate of High School Equivalence by passing the Tests of General Educational Development (GED), many adults wish to obtain a standard high school diploma. The Certificate of High School Equivalence is issued by the State Board of Education and may not be exchanged for a high school diploma, except for certain at-risk students who are part of the Missouri Option Program. Students enrolled in the Missouri Option Program are required to demonstrate and document the attainment of the major academic skills and knowledge associated with a high school program of study. The Missouri Option Score Report is one of the academic components required for the awarding of a high school diploma by the local district, and as such, is to be placed in the student's permanent record. Since the purpose of the Missouri Option Program is to qualify the student for a high school diploma, the scores are only valid in that context. In addition, the GED tests scores may not be used for the purpose of granting credit toward a standard high school diploma. Students requesting GED scores should contact the GED Testing Office at DESE at (573) 751-3504.

Local boards of education may establish adult high school diploma programs through which adults may obtain standard high school diplomas by meeting the minimum graduation requirements of the district. (See Appendix H for a description of the conditions and limitations.) All credit earned by the adults during high school and since leaving school should be collected and validated to determine deficiencies, and all deficiencies should be met through coursework meeting current standards for granting credit.

## **HONORARY HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA**

The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, in cooperation with the Missouri Veterans Commission, administers a program entitled “Operation Recognition,” which was established by state law. (See Appendix H.) The purpose of this statewide program is to award honorary high school diplomas to civilian prisoners of war (POWs) and to any veteran who left high school prior to graduation to enter the United States Armed Forces. These individuals have been given this opportunity to receive an honorary high school diploma as a tribute to their military service in answering the call of their state and nation.

Applications may be obtained from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, Division of Career Education - Community Education Section, or the Missouri Veterans Commission. All applications are sent to the Commission for verification of time in service and confirmation that the veteran received an honorable discharge. Approved applications are then sent to the Department to verify their Missouri address and to identify the school district where the diploma is to be sent. The Department issues an honorary high school diploma on behalf of the State Board of Education to any eligible POW or veteran. These diplomas may be awarded posthumously. School districts and school administrators are asked to cooperate in the presentation of these diplomas.



## **APPENDIX A:**

### **Specific Requirements and Interpretive Notes for Missouri High School Graduation Requirements**

#### **Communication Arts**

Missouri high school graduates must earn at least four units selected to enable students to master important knowledge and skills in the areas of standard grammar and usage; composition; speaking; reading, interpreting and appreciating various genre of literature; and reading, interpreting and using technical manuals, schedules, graphs and other forms of written communication.

***Interpretative Notes:*** Courses in foreign language (including American Sign Language, ASL), school publications, yearbook, media, photography, and radio and television may not be counted toward meeting the minimum requirements. Speech and debate courses are counted for communication arts credit. Scholastic journalism may be counted for communication arts credit, but only if it is taught by a certificated English teacher.

#### **Mathematics**

Missouri high school graduates must earn at least three units selected to ensure that students have strong problem-solving skills and a foundation in the mathematical concepts of number sense, geometry and spatial sense, measurement, data analysis, statistics, patterns and relationships, algebraic thinking, mathematical systems, number theory, and discrete topics.

***Interpretative Notes:*** Courses commonly named “computer math,” the content of which is computer literacy, introductory computer programming, and nominal mathematics applications on computers may not be counted toward meeting the minimum requirements in mathematics.

#### **Science**

Missouri high school graduates must earn at least three units selected to ensure that students have mastered the unifying concepts, principles and laws common to all the sciences; can competently apply the scientific method; and can organize and solve scientific problems in consumer, career and technical environments.

## **Social Studies**

Missouri high school graduates must earn at least three units selected to enable students to master important knowledge and skills in the areas of civic knowledge and responsibility; economic systems and functions; governmental functions; geography; world history; and American history. One of the three units must be American history, and the equivalent of one-half unit must be in government.

*Interpretative Notes:* See Appendix D

## **Fine Arts**

Missouri high school graduates must earn at least one unit, which must be from the following: music, visual arts, dance, or theatre. The content ensures that students master fundamental knowledge of the subject, including history, aesthetics, and criticism, and are able to produce or perform at an introductory level in at least one area of fine arts.

*Interpretative Notes:* Only music, visual arts, dance, or theatre may be counted toward meeting the minimum requirements. Foreign language (including ASL), literature, literature appreciation, speech, debate, radio and television, and stagecraft may not be counted. To earn fine-arts credit for marching band or drum corps, students must also play musical instruments and participate during times of concert or performing activities.

## **Practical Arts**

Missouri high school graduates must earn at least one unit designed to provide life skills or to contribute to the student's career goals.

*Interpretative Notes:* Practical arts courses are those in which students learn to integrate academic knowledge and skills with pre-vocational and career and technical knowledge and skills, and to apply them in authentic situations. Practical arts courses include courses of general interest such as computer applications, school publications, and technology education, as well as career and technical education courses.

## **Physical Education**

Missouri high school graduates must earn at least one unit that provides students with knowledge and skills necessary for developing and maintaining a lifestyle that fosters physical fitness, participation in recreational activities, and general concern for personal well-being.

***Interpretative Notes:*** Physical education programs must focus on the knowledge and skills needed for the development of cardiorespiratory endurance, muscular strength, flexibility and body composition; and stress the importance of physical activity as an important component of lifetime health and wellness. Courses devoted to conditioning for interscholastic sports or practicing for interscholastic sports may not be counted toward meeting the minimum requirement. Courses offered for elective credit may include exercise or learning about team or individual sports.

## **Health**

Missouri high school graduates must earn at least one-half unit that addresses structures of, functions of, and relationships among human body systems; principles and practices of physical and mental health (such as personal health habits, nutrition, stress management); diseases and methods for prevention, treatment and control; principles of movement and physical fitness; methods used to assess health, reduce risk factors, and avoid high risk behaviors (such as violence, tobacco, alcohol and other drug use); consumer health issues (such as the effects of mass media and technologies on safety and health); and, responses to emergency situations.

## **Personal Finance**

Missouri high school graduates must earn at least one-half unit that addresses the Missouri competencies in the areas of income, money management, spending and credit, and saving and investing. This class must be taught in grades 10-12.

## **Electives**

Missouri high school graduates must earn at least 7 units selected to ensure mastery of important basic academic knowledge, skills and competencies which may otherwise not have been mastered; to extend and enhance mastery of advanced academic skills; to prepare students with employment skills; and, for students not pursuing postsecondary education, to ensure that they have the knowledge and skills needed to prepare for employment in current and emerging fields.

***Interpretative Notes:*** Every elective should be chosen because the knowledge and skills taught in the course will strengthen a student's career-education preparation and increase the student's probability of succeeding in postsecondary education. Students should not be permitted to select electives randomly or simply to accumulate the required number of units of credit.

## APPENDIX B:

### Requirements for the College Preparatory Studies Certificate

The Missouri State Board of Education awards the College Preparatory Studies Certificate to Missouri students who successfully complete a rigorous academic program in high school. The certificate is awarded in addition to the regular high school diploma granted by local school districts. This certificate was designed to recognize those students who not only exceed the state's minimum graduation requirements, but who also demonstrate a commitment to good school attendance. Because the certificate is awarded by the state, local schools may not add additional requirements for students to qualify.

Awarding the College Preparatory Studies Certificate is voluntary on the part of school districts, and meeting the requirements is voluntary on the part of the students. School officials are encouraged to use the program to encourage all students to pursue excellence in their high school studies.

**To be eligible for the certificate, a student must meet these requirements.**

1. Complete a rigorous personal plan of study cooperatively developed by the school, the student and the student's parents. The personal plan of study should be developed around a career path or cluster and must include at least these units of credit.

<i>Subject</i>	<b>College Preparatory Studies Certificate</b>	<b>State Minimum Requirements</b>
Communication Arts	4	4
Mathematics	4	3
Science	3	3
Social Studies	3	3
Fine Arts	1	1
Practical Arts	1	1
Personal Finance	.5	.5
Health	.5	.5
Physical Education	1	1
Electives *	7	7
<b>Minimum Units Required</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>24</b>
* See pages 20-21		

2. Earn at least a 3.0 grade point average (GPA), on a 4.0 scale, in the combined subject areas of English/language arts, mathematics, science and social studies. The school may calculate GPAs for its students at the end of the seventh or eighth semester of high school.
3. Score above the prior year's national composite average mean on the American College Test (ACT) or on the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT). This criterion is revised annually to reflect the latest national averages from the ACT and SAT. Check the current year's certification forms for the required minimum scores.
4. Maintain a 9-12 attendance rate of at least 95 percent.
5. Complete a strong academic program, as specifically outlined in the section that follows.

Dual-credit courses taken in high school for both high school and college credit may be counted toward satisfying the core curriculum requirements.

Courses taken by middle/junior high school students may be counted as satisfying the high school core curriculum requirement if the content is equivalent to high school courses and if subsequent courses in the subject are shown on the high school transcript.

### **Communication Arts**

At least four units, one of which may be speech or debate, and two units of which must be in courses emphasizing composition or writing skills.

***Interpretative Notes:*** Courses in foreign language, school publications, yearbook, media, photography, and radio and television may not be counted toward meeting the minimum requirements. Speech and debate courses are counted for communication-arts credit. Scholastic journalism may be counted for communication arts credit, but only if it is taught by a certificated English teacher.

### **Mathematics**

At least four units from the following: algebra I, plane geometry, algebra II, precalculus, trigonometry, analytic geometry, calculus, math analysis, and statistics.

***Interpretive Notes:*** Applied Mathematics may be counted only if the student successfully completes a standard algebra II course. Standard algebra courses that have been subdivided, e.g., algebra I is divided into algebra IA and IB, may be counted only as one course unit. Algebra I taken in the seventh or eighth grade may be counted toward meeting the requirement.

## **Science**

At least three units (not including general science) selected from biology, chemistry, or physics, one of which is a laboratory course.

***Interpretive Notes:*** Examples of courses acceptable toward the three units: Botany, zoology, anatomy and physiology, biology, chemistry, and physics. Applications in Biology/Chemistry and Principles of Technology may be counted. Life science, physical science, and earth science may be counted *only* if it can be demonstrated that they are taught at the high school level with a rigor comparable to biology, chemistry, or physics.

## **Social Studies**

At least three units, including American history, world history, and at least one semester of government.

***Interpretive Notes:*** Examples of courses acceptable toward the three units: World history, American history, American government, civics, principles of democracy, economics, psychology, sociology, political science and geography.

## **Fine Arts**

At least one unit of fine arts courses including the visual arts, music, dance and theatre.

***Interpretive Notes:*** Examples of courses acceptable toward the one unit: Art I, II, III, and IV, sculpture, design, drawing, painting, theatre, oral interpretation, dance, dramatics, band and any other instrumental music, chorus, and any other vocal music courses, and art, music or theatre appreciation courses.

## **Specified Core Electives**

At least three core electives from foreign language (two units of one foreign language are strongly recommended) and/or combinations from two or more of the following course areas: English, mathematics, social studies, science, and fine arts.

***Interpretive Notes:*** A computer-science course with a prerequisite of at least algebra I is permissible as a mathematics elective. State and/or international history courses are permissible as social studies electives.

**General Electives**

At least four units sufficient to meet state and local graduation requirements, including physical education, health and personal finance. The courses should be selected and planned by the school, the student, and the student's parents to develop the student's aptitude and skills. Advanced career and technical courses that have been selected to support and strengthen the student's personal plan of study may be used to fulfill this general elective requirement.

Each year, the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education provides forms to all high school principals so they can certify the number of prospective graduates who have qualified for the College Preparatory Studies Certificate. The Department of Education provides the appropriate number of certificates at no cost to each school or school district.

## **APPENDIX C:**

### **Missouri Coordinating Board for Higher Education**

#### **High School Core Curriculum Requirement Course Descriptions**

*(Approved 10-13-94, Revised 7-14-06)*

The Coordinating Board for Higher Education (CBHE) has established a recommended 24-unit high school core curriculum guideline for students who plan to enroll in a Missouri college or university. The CBHE 24-unit high school core curriculum is designed to prepare high school students for access to and retention/success in collegiate-level work. Students are expected to demonstrate competency in high school core content. Failure to do so may result in placement in developmental/remedial coursework at additional time and expense to the student.

The CBHE encourages governing boards at Missouri's postsecondary institutions to incorporate the 24-unit high school core curriculum into admissions processes for all first-time freshmen; however, admissions and placement decisions are ultimately made at the institutional level. Requirements vary for admission to Missouri institutions. For example, foreign language study is required for admission to some institutions. Students are strongly encouraged to discuss admissions requirements and placement practices with staff at Missouri institutions in which they may be interested in enrolling.

The CBHE 24-unit high school core curriculum is recommended for full implementation beginning with the Missouri high school graduating class of 2010.

#### **CBHE-Recommended High School Core Curriculum**

English/Language Arts - 4 units

Social Studies - 3 units

Mathematics - 3 units

Science - 3 units

Fine Arts - 1 unit

Additional Coursework - 3 units \*

Electives - 7 units \*\*

\* Missouri public high school students are required by the State Board of Education to complete units in practical arts (1), physical education (1), health education (1/2), and personal finance (1/2)

\*\* All students should complete at least 3 elective units total in foreign language and/or other courses within high school core content areas defined below. Two units of a single foreign language are strongly recommended.



For each high school core content area, descriptions follow that provide illustrations of coursework acceptable and unacceptable for the high school core curriculum.

### **English/Language Arts**

- English/language arts coursework (4 units) emphasizes college preparatory composition, research skills, analysis of literature, and other content of comparable or greater rigor. Speech and debate courses may be included.
- Coursework not acceptable for the high school core curriculum emphasizes student publications, broadcast media, or theatre.

### **Social Studies**

- Social studies coursework (3 units) emphasizes American history, Missouri government and Missouri history as required by state statute, geography/world civilizations, and other content of comparable or greater rigor.
- Coursework not acceptable for the high school core curriculum emphasizes family/human development or consumer education.

### **Mathematics**

- Mathematics coursework (3 units) emphasizes college preparatory algebra and other content of comparable or greater rigor. Students who complete algebra prior to the freshman year would be expected to complete 3 additional units in grades 9-12.
- Coursework not acceptable for the high school core curriculum emphasizes pre-algebra, computer math/programming, consumer/basic math, or business math/accounting.

### **Science**

- Science coursework (3 units) emphasizes college preparatory biology, chemistry, and other content of comparable or greater rigor. Science coursework should include at least one laboratory course.
- Coursework not acceptable for the high school core curriculum emphasizes general or consumer science.

## **Fine Arts**

- Fine arts coursework (1 unit) emphasizes visual arts, instrumental or vocal music, dance, theatre, or other content of comparable or greater rigor. Critical analysis, theory, or "appreciation" courses may be included.
- Coursework not acceptable for the high school core curriculum emphasizes speech, debate, or broadcast media.

## **Specified Core Electives**

Three units selected from foreign language (two units of one foreign language are strongly recommended) and/or combinations from two or more of the following course areas: English, mathematics, social studies, science, visual and performing arts. A computer science course with a prerequisite of at least algebra I is permissible as a mathematics elective. State and/or international history courses are permissible as social studies electives.

## **Related Considerations**

**Dual-Credit Courses** — Courses taken in high school for both high school and college credit may be counted toward satisfying the core curriculum requirements.

**Middle/Junior High School Courses** — Courses taken by middle/junior high school students in mathematics and foreign language may be counted as satisfying the high school core curriculum requirement if the content is equivalent to high school courses (e.g., foreign language I and algebra I) and if subsequent courses in the subject are shown on the high school transcript (e.g., foreign language II and algebra II).

## **APPENDIX D:**

### **Required Instruction on U.S. and Missouri Constitutions, American History, and Federal, State and Local Government (Section 170.011, RSMo)**

#### **Schools Subject to Section 170.011, RSMo, as Amended**

All public and private schools serving grade 7 and above; and all public and private colleges other than privately operated trade schools must comply with section 170.011, RSMo.

#### **Subjects Required to Be Taught**

Section 170.011, RSMo, requires all students to receive instruction on the U.S. and Missouri constitutions and in American history and institutions, beginning no later than grade 7 and continuing through high school and college. This instruction may consist of units or entire courses, but must be identifiable within each school's curriculum.

Students must also receive the equivalent of at least one semester of instruction in the institutions, branches and functions of federal, state and local government and in the electoral processes, sometime during grades 9-12. The required content may be taught in an entirely new course of at least a semester in length or may comprise time equivalent to at least a semester within an existing course or courses.

#### **Graduation Requirements Contained in Section 170.011, RSMo**

To be eligible for graduation from high school, a student must satisfactorily pass a test or tests on the provisions and principles of the U.S. and Missouri constitutions and in American history and institutions at some time(s) during grades 7-12. The design, content and passing criteria for the test(s) are at the discretion of local school districts.

Students must also pass the course or courses designated as containing the required instruction in the institutions, branches and functions of federal, state and local government and in the electoral processes.

#### **Designation of Courses Containing Required Content**

Typically, content such as the functions of federal, state and local government and the electoral processes fits within the general scope of courses such as citizenship or civics, government, and current affairs or contemporary issues. One or a combination of those classes should be considered first. Other courses may be designated, but the required content must be clearly identifiable.

School districts may not designate courses as meeting this requirement that are required to be taken for graduation or for the College Preparatory Studies Certificate. For example, districts may not designate American history as the only course in which the required content is taught.

To devote an entire semester of a one-unit American history course to governmental functions and the electoral process would reduce the time available for American history instruction to only one semester. Such a course could not be counted as a full unit toward meeting the Missouri School Improvement Program curriculum standards or for any other program or purpose requiring a full unit of American history.

### **Grade Levels at Which Studies of Governmental Functions and the Electoral Process Must Be Provided**

The statute, as amended, specifies that courses designated as including instruction in governmental function and the electoral process must be taken and passed during grades 9-12. Instruction on the U.S. and Missouri constitutions and in American history and institutions must, however, begin by grade 7 and continue.

### **Notification of Students and Parents**

Notification of parents and students of these requirements is especially important since all students must take and pass the test(s) on the provisions and principles of the U.S. and Missouri constitutions and in American history and institutions; and, all students must, during grades 9-12, take and pass the course or courses designated as containing the required instruction on governmental functions and the electoral processes.

It is essential that parents and students be notified before enrolling for ninth grade, and periodically thereafter, of the requirements, the specific courses designated as meeting the requirements, and their individual status with respect to meeting the requirements. No students or their parents should be surprised to learn too late that the requirements for graduation have not been met. All staff members who engage in academic counseling should actively help keep students and their parents informed.

### **Documentation of Compliance with Statutory Requirements**

Districts should review their entire curriculum for grades 7-12 and identify the lessons, units and courses in which students will receive the required instruction on the U.S. and Missouri constitutions and in American history and institutions. A list of those lessons, units and courses should be available for review.

The tests to be used to comply with the testing provision, the pass/fail criteria and other information such as the conditions under which they are administered and the number of times the tests can be retaken, should be maintained on file for review.

The specific courses designated as containing the required instruction on governmental institutions, branches and functions and on the electoral process should be clearly identified and curriculum guides maintained on file for review.

Students' permanent transcripts should clearly identify the courses taken and passed (or failed) which are designated as meeting the statutory requirement and the date(s) upon which the required tests have been taken (or retaken) and passed.

## **APPENDIX E:**

### **Policy on Granting Credit for Off-Campus Programs Other Than Dual-Credit College Courses**

Many students who are juniors and seniors in high school can benefit substantially from school-directed and supervised paid or unpaid learning experiences that cannot be readily provided within a regular classroom setting – experiences that can be made available through assignment to off-campus locations under cooperative arrangements with business and industry or other institutions. The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education recognizes and will approve the four types of off-campus programs described below. A school district may offer other types of off-campus programs without Department approval, but the students enrolled in them may not be counted in membership and attendance for state aid purposes, and the students may not be granted high school credit for the off-campus experience (Sections 161.092 and 161.122, RSMo).

#### **Types of Off-Campus Programs**

- 1. Academic Programs** involve students who are enrolled in advanced academic or fine arts classes and have, as their goals, the acquisition of specialized knowledge and the ability to apply the knowledge to situations which cannot be replicated in a school classroom.

*Related Instruction:* Students must be enrolled in and receiving related instruction in the regular high school program before credit can be awarded for the off-campus experience.

*Credit:* Elective credit. One-half unit of credit per semester may be awarded for 10-19 hours weekly of off-campus experience, or one unit of credit per semester for 20 or more hours weekly of off-campus experience. No more than two units of credit may be awarded during any school year.

*Teacher Qualifications:* The program or course offering must be under the supervision of a teacher certificated in the area of the off-campus course.

*Recommended Supervision Time:* 225 minutes per week for each 10 participating students.

*Written Plans:* There must be a written instructional plan that sets forth specific learner objectives and an evaluation plan for student performance.

*Student Pay:* Students may not be paid for their off-campus experience as part of academic programs.

*Example:* A student enrolled in advanced chemistry spends part of the school day in a chemical company working with technicians. The student will receive credit in advanced chemistry as well as credit for the off-campus experience.

*Core Data Course Code:* 996001-Academic Programs, Off-Campus

2. **Career Exploration Programs** involve students who have not yet selected occupational goals and who will benefit from exposure to a variety of occupations, as practiced at the job site, so that they may develop their own occupational objectives from direct experience.

*Related Instruction:* Students must be enrolled in and receiving related instruction as part of the regular high school program. The related instruction will provide students with knowledge of occupational clusters, requisite training and experience for occupations being studied, and skills related to obtaining and holding a job. Students may spend no more than nine weeks at any one job site.

*Credit:* Elective credit. Credit is awarded as part of the related classroom instruction. One-half unit of credit per semester may be awarded for 10-19 hours weekly of off-campus experience, or one unit of credit per semester for 20 or more hours weekly of off-campus experience. No more than two units of credit may be awarded during the school year.

*Teacher Qualifications:* The program must be under the supervision of a teacher who provides related classroom instruction in career awareness and related areas.

*Recommended Supervision Time:* 225 minutes per week for each 15 participating students.

*Written Plans:* There must be a written instructional plan that sets forth specific learner objectives and an evaluation plan for student performance.

*Student Pay:* Students may not be paid for their off-campus experience as part of their career exploration programs.

*Example:* A student enrolled in a career exploration program spends nine weeks outside of the school day observing and learning at the job site in an area of occupational interest. The student completes projects and reports related to the occupational area and receives credit in the career-exploration class.

*Core Data Course Code:* 997001-Career Exploration Programs, Off-Campus

3. **Cooperative Career Education Programs** involve students enrolled in approved cooperative career education. The primary goal is authentic assessment of the application of academic and occupational skills. Programs must meet the common program standards established and approved by the Division of Career Education. The programs provide structured work experience in a controlled environment, coupled with related vocational and academic instruction.

*Related Instruction:* Students must be enrolled in an approved career education program with classes which are concurrent with the off-campus experience. The related instruction may be less frequent than daily, but must comply with the approved program standards.

*Credit:* Elective credit. One-half unit of credit per semester may be awarded for 10-19 hours weekly of off-campus experience, or one unit of credit per semester for 20 or more hours weekly of off-campus experience. No more than two units of credit may be awarded during any school year for the off-campus experience.

*Teacher Qualifications:* The program must be under the supervision of a teacher certificated for cooperative education in the career education program area.

*Recommended Supervision Time:* 225 minutes per week for each 12-15 participating students.

*Written Plans:* There must be a written instructional plan which sets forth specific learner objectives, an evaluation plan for student performance, and a training agreement signed by all parties involved.



*Student Pay:* Students must receive pay. The employment relationship must be established for off-campus experience as part of cooperative career education programs.

*Example:* A student enrolled in marketing education participates in the marketing internship component. She is placed in an off-campus experience such as retail sales. The student earns credit for the marketing class and appropriate credit for the internship.

*Core Data Course Code(s):* 016780-Supervised Agricultural Experience, Cooperative Education; 034380-Supervised Business Employment; 040080-Supervised Marketing Employment; 040081-Supervised COE Employment; 096839-Family and Consumer Sciences Occupations, Cooperative Education; 170080-Supervised CIE Employment

#### **4. Work Experience for Students with Disabilities**

- A. Cooperative Work Experience (COOP) Programs for students with disabilities is limited to students with disabilities whose Individualized Education Programs (IEP) indicate the need for work experience in a competitive setting and who are also eligible as clients of the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation. Program goals include the acquisition of general skills related to performing work under supervision, as well as job-related skills.
- B. Sheltered Workshop Programs for students with disabilities are limited to students with disabilities whose IEP team has determined that a student should obtain skills assessment, training, and/or work experience at a local sheltered workshop. The student should be certified for sheltered employment in the following ways:
  - a. referral to the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation or Rehabilitation Services for the Blind for certification
  - b. referral to the sheltered workshop for certification by an Extended Employment Certification Specialist.

*Related Instruction:* Students must be enrolled in and receiving related instruction in the regular public agency program (includes high school and State Board operated programs) before credit can be awarded for the off-campus experience. This restriction does not apply to students with disabilities whose IEPs indicate full-time work experience.

*Credit:* Elective credit. Credit is awarded as part of the related classroom instruction. One unit of credit per semester may be awarded for 10-19 hours weekly of off-campus experience, or two units of credit for 20 or more hours weekly of off-campus experience. No more than two units of credit, or twice the number of units of credit granted for related instruction whichever is less may be awarded for off-campus experience during the school year. Students participating in the COOP Program must be released from school for a minimum of one hour per school day to receive credit for the off-campus work experience.

*Note:* A student with a disability whose IEP indicates a need for additional supervised work experience to make the transition from school to the world of work may earn up to four units of credit during the school year for off-campus work experience. The additional two units of credit would be based on increments of 20 to 30 hours weekly of off-campus work experience.

*Teacher Qualifications:* The work experience must be under the supervision of a certificated special education teacher who has been designated and approved as a work-experience coordinator. The work-experience coordinator would also provide or coordinate the related classroom instruction in the regular school program.

*Recommended Supervision Time:* One class period daily for each 8-15 participating students, depending on the nature and severity of the disabling conditions.

*Written Plans:* The IEP and Individualized Plan for Employment must set forth specific measurable objectives to be achieved by the student and describe a plan for evaluating student performance.

*Student Pay:* Students may be paid for their off-campus experience as part of the COOP Program. Students placed in sheltered workshops may or may not be paid during the assessment phase, depending on type of work in which they are involved. The workshop will contract with the school district for assessment costs on an individual basis. Students in training or employed by the sheltered workshop must be paid commensurate wages.

*Example:* A student enrolled in basic math is released from school the last hour of the day to participate in an off-campus work experience at the local supermarket (working with stockers and/or cashiers). The student will earn minimum wage for his/her work and will also receive credit in basic math as well as credit for the off-campus experience.

*Core Data Course Code:* 196000-Work Experience for Special Education

## **Insurance and Liability for Students in Off-Campus Programs**

Students who are receiving pay for work performed in an off-campus program will generally be covered by the sponsors' workers' compensation insurance and general liability insurance. Students in academic programs and career exploration programs who are not performing productive work and are not paid, will not be covered by the sponsors' workers' compensation insurance and general liability insurance. Therefore, any school district that arranges off-campus academic or career-exploration programs must provide accidental injury and job-related illness insurance for students and liability insurance to cover any injuries or damages caused by students on the sponsors' premises. Liability insurance to protect the supervising teacher and any other school district employees who might be exposed to a liability risk due to the placement of students in off-campus programs should also be provided by the school district.

Since there is danger of unpaid students replacing paid employees, the school district and the cooperating sponsor should exercise extreme diligence in complying with applicable state and federal labor laws and regulations.

## **Attendance Eligible for State Financial Aid**

All four types of off-campus programs must be well-planned and adequately supervised by school personnel to ensure the school district's eligibility for state and federal funds and to justify the awarding of high school credit to participating students. The following general policies will apply.

- To be counted for membership and average daily attendance for state-aid purposes, students must be under the guidance and direction of certificated teachers employed by the public school district whether the instruction (teaching process) is on-campus or off-campus. Students who not over 21 years of age and who are under the guidance and direction of public school teachers for less than

- the standard school day may be counted as part-time students. (Their part-time membership and attendance are computed according to Section 163.011, RSMo.)
- School districts shall not count students in membership or attendance for any type of off-campus instruction except Department-approved programs that are adequately supervised by the district's certificated teachers to the extent the students can be considered "under the guidance and direction of teachers" and for which the school district is granting high school credit. School districts have responsibility for students during the time they are counted for school membership and attendance for state-aid purposes.

### **Program Authorization**

Written proposals for off-campus programs must be approved annually by the appropriate division in the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, if the students are to be counted in membership and attendance for state-aid purposes, if funding is involved, or if high school credit is to be granted. Proposals for academic programs and career exploration programs should be submitted to the Coordinator, School Improvement and Accreditation. Proposals for cooperative career education programs should be submitted to the Coordinator, Career Education. Proposals for work-experience programs for special education students should be submitted to the Coordinator, Special Education Services.

## **APPENDIX F:**

### **Dual Credit, Dual Enrollment, and Dual Counting for State Aid of High School Juniors and Seniors in College Courses**

Section 167.223, RSMo, authorizes high school students to enroll in courses at colleges or universities, receive both high school and college credit, and be counted in attendance at the high school for state aid purposes under certain circumstances.

#### **Dual Credit**

Dual credit courses are postsecondary courses that are taught on the high school campus. These courses are taught by qualified instructors as defined by The Coordinating Board for Higher Education and are of the same quality and rigor as all other college courses available to regular college students. Refer to CBHE for additional guidelines for dual credit.

#### **Dual Enrollment**

Dual enrollment is defined as high school students taking postsecondary classes and who are physically present on the postsecondary education campus for those classes.

#### **Articulation Agreements vs. Dual Credit**

Articulation agreements are written contracts between a secondary school and a postsecondary institution in which specified high school courses are aligned with corresponding courses at the postsecondary institution. Upon completion of the high school course and the subsequent enrollment of students at the postsecondary institution, students will be awarded college credit as specified within the agreement.

Dual credit courses are courses taught on the high school campus in which the student is concurrently earning both high school and college credit. The student is awarded college credit immediately upon completing the course, and the course is placed on the transcript of the college offering the course. Students do not have to enroll in that college after graduation to receive the credit.

#### **Dual Enrollment for State Aid Purposes**

The following guidelines establish the conditions under which high school students may be dually enrolled and counted in attendance at the high school for state aid purposes.

1. The students must be enrolled in high school and must be taking postsecondary courses at Missouri public community colleges or public or private four-year colleges or universities. In addition, there must be an agreement between the school district and each college or university attended by the high school students. This agreement must outline how class attendance will be taken and average daily attendance (ADA) reported to the high school.

“Postsecondary” in this context means advanced academic and career education courses, the content of which is clearly at the collegiate level. The courses should be the types of courses available to regular college students.

2. On days when students are attending college classes, their attendance (or absence) must be recorded by the college, transmitted to the high school in accordance with the agreement, and recorded along with all other attendance data. In order for districts to receive state aid on days when the college classes do not meet the student must:
  - a. Come to the high school and engage in homework or independent study related to their high school or college courses , under the general supervision of high school administrators, teachers, counselors or librarians; or
  - b. Be engaged in similar activities on the college campus, with some responsible person on the college campus documenting the students’ presence and transmitting the information to the high school in accordance with the agreements. Students who are not engaged in such activities are considered absent.
3. High school students cannot be counted in average daily attendance for a full-time equivalency greater than 1.0 (7 hours). For ADA purposes, students may take courses in the evening as long as the combination of day and evening classes does not exceed the 7 hour limit.
4. Districts may choose to transport students to the college campus when they are dually enrolled. However, this is considered a shuttle route and the miles are ineligible for transportation aid purposes.
5. Postsecondary courses in which students are dually enrolled may be counted as part of the high school’s curricular offerings only if the district pays the essential costs for the postsecondary student:
  - a. The district is paying the essential costs of tuition, fees, and books
  - b. Providing transportation at no cost to the student

## **Guidelines that Apply to Both Dual Credit and Dual Enrollment**

### **Equating High School and College Credit**

Although it is not possible to equate college courses precisely to high school credit, a reasonable equating would result in recognizing one unit of high school credit for a 5.0 hour college course, one-half unit of high school credit for a 3.0 hour college course, and one-quarter unit for a 2.0 hour college course.

### **Maximum Number of College Courses Allowed for High School Credit**

The statute does not specify a limit. Each local board of education should determine the number of such units it will recognize and modify its policies accordingly.

### **Course Fees**

Course fees may be paid by the school district or by the student, depending on the agreement between the district and the college or university.

**APPENDIX G:**  
**A+ Schools Criteria**

Each student must:

1. Sign an A+ Schools Contract.
2. Enroll in and attend an A+ Designated High School for three (3) years immediately prior to graduation.
3. Maintain at least a 2.5 grade point average (C+), on a 4-point scale.
4. Maintain a cumulative attendance record of 95% for four years in high school.
5. Perform 50 hours of unpaid academic tutoring/mentoring of students.
6. Maintain a record of good citizenship.
7. Avoid the unlawful use of drugs/alcohol.
8. Make a good faith effort to first secure all available federal postsecondary student financial assistance funds that do not require repayment.
9. Register with the Selective Service.



## **APPENDIX H:**

### **Adult High School Diploma Program**

The continual advancement of technology and the changing social climate mandates a higher level of educational attainment for many citizens. The public schools should be concerned with the educational needs of all citizens. An adult high school diploma program may be one way to meet the needs of some adults. The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education approves and encourages the development of adult-education program learning opportunities to accomplish diploma completion as well as other desirable adult education goals within limits prescribed by local boards of education.

According to Section 171.091, RSMo, the school board of any school district may provide for the education of persons over 20 years of age who are residents of the school district out of revenues derived by the school district from sources other than those described in Section 3, Article 9, of the Missouri Constitution (Section 171.091, RSMo).

The adult high school diploma may be granted to adults under the following conditions.

1. Adult education programs must be under the direction of the regular administrative officers of the school and must have the authorization of the local board of education.
2. Adult education programs must be a part of the total school program of the district.
3. Enrollment in the adult high school diploma program may be extended to persons 18 years of age or older who are not enrolled in a regular day program.
4. The adult high school program should approximate the basic distribution of courses required for graduation; however, the program should also encompass the more mature needs, interests, opportunities, and responsibilities of adults. Courses of study should reflect the intellectual, social, vocational, and emotional experience of adults. The adult high school program should offer a flexible course of studies based on schedules that best fit the educational needs, work schedules, and obligations of adults.
5. A unit of credit in an adult high school program shall be awarded for knowledge, skill, or competency equal to that normally required to earn credit in an equivalent course in a secondary school.
6. Awarding of credit
  - a. Credits previously earned and documented by transcript at grade 9 or above may be used to meet adult high school diploma requirements.
  - b. Credit by course or examination: In addition to granting credit toward an adult high school diploma on the basis of length of time devoted to a course, a school may grant credit on a qualitative basis through the administration of an

appropriate standardized subject matter test. These tests should cover the content ordinarily included in a regular high school course in the subject.

- c. Credit earned while in military service may be counted toward the adult high school diploma for the following types of educational experiences:
  - United States Armed Forces Institute courses;
  - United States Armed Forces Institute (USAFI) subject examinations;
  - High school courses offered through USAFI by cooperating colleges and universities --credit upon transfer from the school offering the course;
  - Marine Corps Institute courses;
  - Coast Guard Institute courses;
  - Basic or recruit training — accepted in lieu of required courses in physical education and health; and
  - Service school training — credit may be granted as recommended in, “A Guide to the Evaluation of Educational Experiences in the Armed Services.”
- d. Schools may accept credit earned by a pupil through correspondence or extension study. Such credit shall be earned through the satisfactory completion of courses offered by an accredited college or university.
- e. A maximum of six elective units may be granted for documented federally registered trade apprenticeship programs or other evidence of successful vocational learning or achievement.
- f. One unit per semester and up to a total of six elective units may be awarded for regular employment in cooperative work-study programs supervised or taught by vocationally certified teacher-coordinators.
7. Graduation requirements in the adult high school program shall be the same as set forth in the regular high school program except that no adult student may be graduated until at least two units have been earned in residence in the adult high school program.
8. A diploma issued to an adult under the preceding conditions must be designated as an adult high school diploma.
9. Adults who meet all state and local requirements for a regular high school diploma may be awarded this diploma.

Limited funds do not allow for the use of state adult education funds to finance an adult high school diploma program; however, local funds or tuition may be used. Each school district planning to offer the adult high school diploma program should develop a board of education policy using these guidelines as minimum standards for the granting of an adult high school diploma.

**For more information, contact:**

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